

APR 23 2009

Listing of the claims:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Currently amended)

The method of claim 6 12 wherein the sample tested is human urine

Claim 8. (Currently amended)

The method of claim 6 12 wherein high 25-hydroxyvitamin D binding activity in the urine is deemed indicative of salt sensitivity or predisposition to salt-associated hypertension.

Claim 9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently amended)

A method of calculating specific 25-hydroxyvitamin D binding activity in urine samples of an individual by subtracting measured 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ binding in samples in the presence of both labeled and excess unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ from 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ binding in samples containing only labeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ but to which no unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ has been added, to determine salt sensitivity.

Claim 12 (New)

A method of determining specific 25-hydroxyvitamin D binding activity in a urine sample comprising the steps of:

- (1) collecting two or more identical samples of urine from an individual;
- (2) adding a known amount of radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ to all of the samples collected in step (1) and a known amount of excess unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ to half of the samples to compete with the radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ for binding proteins in the urine;

- (3) incubating all samples prepared in steps (2) to allow radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ binding to proteins in the urine;
- (4) incubating samples prepared in step (4) in buffered dextran-coated charcoal, then centrifuging to precipitate the unbound radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃
- (5) measuring the radioactivity in the supernatant of each sample of step 4;
- (6) subtracting the average radioactivity in the samples containing excess unlabeled 25-hydroxy vitamin D₃ from the average radioactivity in the samples to which no unlabeled 25-hydroxy vitamin D₃ had been added to determine 25-hydroxy vitamin D binding proteins in the urine in samples containing the unlabeled 25-hydroxy vitamin D₃ to determine 25-hydroxyl vitamin D binding in samples to which unlabeled 25-hydroxy vitamin D₃ has not been added.

13: (New)

A test kit comprising radiolabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃, unlabeled 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ and charcoal but no antibodies.